



A  
VINDICATION  
OF  
*Eustace Budgell, Esq;*



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A  
VINDICATION  
OF

*Eustace Budgell, Esq;*

From some ASPERSIONS thrown up-  
on him in a late PAMPHLET,

ENTITLED

*A Copy of the Will of Dr. Matthew Tindal,  
with an Account of what pass'd concerning  
the same, between Mrs. Lucy Price, Eustace  
Budgell, Esq; and Mr. Nicholas Tindal.*



L O N D O N :

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GOING into a Publisher's Shop to enquire what new Pieces of Dulness or Scandal the Press had discharged, I met with a most *scurrilous Libel*, intitled *A Copy of the Will of Dr. Tindal; with an Account of what passed concerning it between Mrs. Lucy Price, Eustace Budgell, Esq; and Mr. Nicholas*

cholas Tindall. The Intention of this Pamphlet is as manifest as it is *wicked*. Mr. *Budgell* is a Person of such *Eminence* and *Capacity*, and has lately shewn so much Zeal in the Service of his *Cause*, that he must expect to be *traduced* and *vilified* by the opposite Party. He is soon to be the *Herald* to lead that *immortal Chieftain* Dr. *Tindal* into the Field against the *Christian Army*; and, to encourage his Soldiers to fight manfully under him, he is with his inimitable Eloquence to set forth all his glorious *Exploits* and *Victories*. And if Mr. *Badgell* should take the Field himself in Aid of his Captain, *he* can be his *own Herald*, if his *Modesty* will give him Leave; but this *eloquent Orator* will sound the *Praises* of his Hero without Effect, if he loses his *own Credit* by such *scandalous Attacks* upon his *Character*. To come to the Point: He is accused of using *indirect Means*, in Concert with one, Mrs. *Lucy Price*, to *procure* a Legacy of 2100 *l.* and of a Design to make a fraudulent Demand of 1000 *l.* more upon the Doctor's Estate. I shall lay open the *pretended Evidence* and make some Remarks upon it.

“ It is alledged, that the Doctor had declared to several Persons that he intended to make his *Nephew* his sole Heir, and to his Nephew, about five Weeks before  
“ he

“ he died, that he had left him *all* but his  
 “ *MSS.* that Mr. *Budgell* took a Lodg-  
 “ ing for the Doctor near his own, and  
 “ that he and Mrs. *Lucy Price* were con-  
 “ stantly with him, and kept all others  
 “ from him; that the Doctor had writ to  
 “ his Nephew, but that the Letter was ne-  
 “ ver carried to the Office; that the Style  
 “ of the Will was different from the Do-  
 “ ctor's Style; that the *Woman of the House*  
 “ and Mr. *Budgell's* Footman were Wit-  
 “ nesses to the Will; that the Will was writ-  
 “ ten all in Mrs. *Lucy Price's* Hand, and  
 “ contrary to a former Will witnessed by  
 “ Gentlemen who are ready to attest it;  
 “ and perused by a Friend of the Doctor's  
 “ about six Weeks before his Death; that  
 “ the Will gave away more than the Doctor  
 “ was worth, tho' it made the Nephew  
 “ *residuary* Legatee; and farther, that Mrs.  
 “ *Lucy Price* declared that *it was all her*  
 “ *doing* (whether by *persuading the Doctor*  
 “ *or making the Will*, the Witness does not  
 “ say) and therefore that he *should* make  
 “ the Nephew some Consideration. ” This  
 is the Substance of the first Article of Ac-  
 cusation; in answer to which I beg leave to  
 observe, That the Doctor, tho' a *Philosopher*,  
 as an *Englishman*, had an undoubted Right  
 to *alter* his *Mind* and *Will*; and therefore,  
 how impertinent is it to insist, That the Do-  
 ctor had *formerly* given his Estate to Mr.  
*Tindal?*

*Tindal*? He *did* so, and a *little before* he died, he gave it to Mr. *Budgell*: And what then? He thought *proper* so to do, and had very good Reasons for doing it, as any one might have seen in the last *Saturday's Bee*, if a certain Letter had not unluckily been missing.

If the Doctor, Mrs. *Lucy Price*, and *Eustace Budgell*, Esq; being intimately acquainted and in the same Way of Thinking, and having, as Mr. *Budgell* says, *spent many a pleasant Day together*, liked one another's Company, or had any private Business together, were they not in the right to prevent Interruption from impertinent Intruders?

GREAT Stress is laid upon the *Miscarriage of a Letter* to Mr. *Tindal*; as if a Letter never miscarried before, or it might not miscarry as easily at this Time as at any other. Mr. *Budgell's* Man might *forget* to carry it to the Office; or the Cat \* might run away with it, and some Body else might run away with the Cat; and was it Mr. *Budgell's* Business to run after them?

BUT the *Style* was *different* from the Doctor's, and there was an *Omission* in it. When

\* Mr. *Budgell's* Papers have suffer'd much by Cats: *Vid. Free-Briton*, and a Balad call'd *Walsingham and Budgell's Cat*.

People have a Mind to quarrel, any Thing will serve for an Occasion. Is it strange that the Style of a *dying* Man should be different from the Style of a Man in *Health*? Then, as to the *Omission*, only the Word *Thing* was omitted; but the *principal Thing* was taken Care of, and any Body with half an Eye might see that the Testator intended to put in the omitted Word. Man, or *Woman* may mistake, but the Meaning and Intent of the Will is very clear.

It is argued that the Will was in Mrs. Price's *Hand-writing*. But might not the Doctor make Use of Mrs. Price's Hand as well as any Body's else? The Doctor *knew* the Lady very well and could make *free* with her. Does it follow that she *made* the Will because she *wrote* it? If she would give her self that Trouble, it was a great Instance of her Condescension and Good-nature; or if she thought Mr. Budgell more worthy to be the *Doctor's* Heir than Mr. Tindal, and persuaded the Doctor to put Mr. Budgell into a Capacity of exercising his *great* Abilities and *serving his Country*, this shews a Regard to *Merit* and the good of the *Publick*; but was no *Injury* to Mr. Tindal. She said, *it was her Doing*, and she did as she thought best: And if Mr. Budgell at her Request made Mr. Tindal a small Pre-

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sent, this is only an Instance of his Gratitude and Generosity; but it cannot from hence be inferred that he gave it from a Consciousness of his having *injured* Mr. Tindal.

AY, but the Will gave to Mr. *Budgell* more than the Dr. was worth, and yet made Mr. *Tindal* residuary Legatee, which, they alledge, so wise a Man as the Dr. would not have done. The *Consequence* is undoubtedly right, but I deny the *Premises*. It does not appear that the Dr. was worth but 1000 l. I allow that no more appears as yet, but can any one offer to say, no more *will* appear? There are other Places, I trow, in the World besides the *strong Box*, and other People in the World besides Mr. *Budgell* and Mrs. *Price*. The Dr. may have intrusted others as well as Mr. *Budgell* to receive Money for him, and they may have *forgot* it as Mr. *Budgell* did; and they may, by some Accident or another, *recollect* themselves as Mr. *Budgell* did; and at last there may be enough to satisfy every Body. I think nothing can be plainer. I am certain it can't be prov'd (what is suggested) that Mr. *Budgell* had any Design to *make a fraudulent Claim of a 1000 l. upon the Drs. Estate*. It is granted, (at least I know nothing to the contrary, and Mr. *Budgell* has not yet contradicted it) that Mr.

*Budgell*

*Budgell*, in the Year 1732 did receive a 1000 l. of *Mr. Snow* in Bank Notes, which he paid to *Sir. F. Child*, and took his Notes payable to *himself*, or *Order*; this being granted, the Libel says farther, that *Mr. Budgell* denied that *he knew any Thing of the Money*. Where is the Inconsistency of all this? He *did not* know any thing of it 'till *Mr. Tindal* refresh'd his Memory by some Circumstances which had escap'd it. When *Mr. Tindal* had convinc'd him that the Notes were indorsed by *Mr. Budgell*, did *Mr. Budgell* deny it *then*? When he reminded him that *Sir. F. Child* gave *Mr. Budgell* Notes for the Money payable to *himself*, or *Order*, did not *Mr. Budgell* honestly confess it? And did not he give a *clear* Account of the Money, *viz.* that the Doctor lent it to him, and that he paid it again, tho' nothing appeared to prove it. Nothing appearing to *disprove* it, it is unreasonable to question *Mr. Budgell's Veracity*. The utmost that can be made of this mighty Business, is, that *Mr. Budgell* has a treacherous Memory; and who has a better Title to a short Memory, or less Occasion for one, than *Mr. Budgell*? But without any other Reasons, the Thing is in it self so highly improbable that scarce any Evidence can make it credible. That a *Gentleman* and a *Philosopher*; a *Gentleman* of so clear a Reputation, and a *Philosopher* of such sound Principles of *Virtue* and *Honour*; that

a Disciple of so *Godlike* a Master, with the Impressions of his Master's divine Precepts and Behaviour in his last and most *affecting* Moments so strong upon him; I say, that Mr. *Budgell* under such Circumstances could be guilty of, or not confess, such dishonourable Practises, is *morally impossible*, and therefore *highly incredible*.

BUT there is one Circumstance which shews that the whole Charge is plainly the Effect of Malice. In this Libel Mr. *Budgell* is accused of *Vanity*; and a Person that can say *that* of Mr. *Budgell*, may say any Thing. The Words of the Pamphlet I shall transcribe at length.

“ WHATEVER the *Legacy* be, you are  
 “ not to reckon it lost; for you must know,  
 “ your Uncle was of Opinion there will be  
 “ very quickly a Change in the Ministry,  
 “ and from something he saw in Me, ima-  
 “ gin'd, I should be, as he was pleased to  
 “ express it, a GREAT MAN, and therefore  
 “ he laid Me under the strongest Obligati-  
 “ ons, when such a Change should happen,  
 “ to provide for you and your *Family*.”  
 Now I appeal to Mr. *Budgell's* Behaviour  
 and *Writings*, particularly to his *modest* Ac-  
 count of himself in the *Bee*, whether he  
 could be of a Sudden so enormously swell'd  
 with *Self-conceit*, and break out in such Tu-  
 mours

*mours of Vanity?* And from this Instance the Publick may judge of the Probity of his Accusers.

As I am willing to obviate every Appearance of Guilt, I must take Notice of one Thing that may be thought to look a little oddly. “ While the Instrument of Agreement between Mr. *Budgell* and Mr. *Tindal* was drawing, Mr. *Budgell* desired Mr. *Tindal* to sign a Paper, containing a Promise that he would not say any thing that should reflect on his Uncle, or him, and an Acknowledgement of his Generosity for giving Mr. *Tindal* more than he was oblig’d to give by the Will. ” This, I own, looks as if there were some Room for Mr. *Tindal* to reflect on the Doctor, or Mr. *Budgell*; and if Mr. *Budgell* had not been a very *unexceptionable* Person, I should have resolved it into a Sense of *Guilt*, but in Mr. *Budgell* so much Caution could proceed from nothing but an Excess of *Prudence*.

I think I have taken the *Sting* out of this poisonous *Wasp* who has endeavour’d to hurt an innocent *Bee*. It may fly up and down, and *make a great deal of Noise*, but I dare insure Mr. *Budgell* from any Damage that his Character will receive from its Venom; tho’ I cannot but say, after all, it would have been more satisfactory to Mr. *Budgell*’s

*Budgell's* Friends, if he would have condescended to *disprove* the Facts, and give us a true Narrative of the Affair. His *Character*, to be sure, *ought* to secure him from Censure, but the World is glad to lay hold of an Opportunity of aspersing *Merit*, because it reproaches their Want of it.

SINCE I have undertaken this Gentleman's Cause (who perhaps may be imploying his great Abilities, in the Service of his Country, and therein fulfilling the Intention of his generous Benefactor) I shall take Notice of some idle Suggestions that are privately whisper'd about to discredit him, well knowing of what Importance *he* is to the Publick. *Idle* I call them in Respect to their *Weakness*, not their *Intention*, or *Promoters*. They are shrewdly suspected to be propagated by the Agents of another certain *Great Man*, who is forc'd (as *Mr. Budgell* very justly observes in the *Bee*) to call in the Assistance of *Friends* and *Enemies*, and to use all Manner of Stratagems, to protect himself from *Mr. Budgell's* Resentments, tho' all the Allies he can procure, and all the Efforts he can make, are likely to avail nothing towards his Security, it being the Opinion of some *knowing* Men of *Mr. Budgell's* Acquaintance, that there will soon be a *Change in the Ministry*, when *Mr. Budgell's Station* will be better suited to his  
Talents

Talents, and his *Reward* (if possible) answerable to his *Merit*.

THE Artifice which his Enemies have employed to destroy the Credit of Mr. *Budgell*, and endanger his Person, is as ungenerous as it is unjust. They have occasioned a Report (and it is presumed, that in a little Time a *Prosecution* will be commenced against him for it) that Mr. *Budgell* has officiated as a *Papish Priest*, and endeavour'd to make a *Convert* to that Religion. Dr. *Tindal* having never professed any Religion but the *Romish*, and it having been the known Practice of the *Papists* to find out *Emissaries* under all Sorts of Disguise, they have taken Occasion to suggest that Dr. *Tindal* and Mr. *Budgell*, while they seem'd to promote the glorious Cause of *Liberty*, against the *slavish Doctrines* and *Duties* of *Christianity*, meant only to serve the Interest of the *Church of Rome*, and introduce *their* Religion, by writing against *all*. Nay, they go so far as to assert (without the least Appearance of Evidence, or Pretence to it) that Mr. *Budgell* made several Attempts to bring over a certain *pious* Lady of his and the Doctor's, Acquaintance to *his* Persuasion, and gave Dr. *Tindal* Absolution; which the Enemies say, was the true Reason of the Doctor's great Composure and Courage in his *last Moments*. This is really a most shocking Charge, and if such  
Liberty

Liberties are taken with Mens Characters, no one can be secure from Scandal; but Mr. *Budgell's* firm Attachment to the *Protestant* Interest is so well known, that none but the most *prejudiced* Persons can believe so romantick a Story; a Story much like the Suggestion of Mr. *Budgell's* having a Commission from the *Pope*, the better to shew the *Plenitude* of the papal Power in such Points, to *canonize* Dr. *Tindal*, only because he had done *Justice* to the *Virtues* and *Abilities* of his great Master and Friend. If in drawing his *Picture* he has a little *favour'd* him, and given us, as they say, a good *Likeness* of him, it is a Piece of *Flattery* that is practised by all good Painters, and Mr. *Budgell* had the strongest Temptation to practice it in this Instance.

As it is usual for Malice to frustrate its own Purposes by *Inconsistencies*, I heard it suggested (with an Intention to render Mr. *Budgell* ridiculous to his Enemies, and suspected by his Friends) that he had Thoughts of taking Orders in the *Church* of *England*, and that he had actually applyed for the Place of *Ordinary* of *Newgate*; nay one of our *weekly* Papers has already insinuated, under a Pretence of complimenting his Talents as an Author, that he has for some Time drawn up the *dying Speeches*. It must be  
own'd,

own'd, that the Place, with the intended Augmentation of the Salary, and a good House, will be a pretty *snug* Thing; but it is the highest Impudence to imagine that a Person so deeply engaged in a *good Cause*, so capable of serving it, and so eminent for his *successfull* Labours in it, should for such a trifle, apostatize from his publicly avowed Principles, and undo at once what has been the greatest Business of his Life.

I am quite tired with repeating such Stuff as People are not ashamed to report of this *great and excellent* Man. But the greatest Men have always the most Enemies, and Envy accompanies Merit, as the Shadow does its Substance. Dr. *Swift* has lately publish'd a *serious Proposal for erecting an Hospital for Incurables*, where he observes that a *prime Minister* qualifies abundance of Persons by making them Incurably Envious and Malicious. And if Eminence and Fame so naturally produce Envy, I know no Body that can qualify more Persons for the Dean's Hospital than Mr. *Budgell*; or any Body that is better qualified to be Governour of it. But not to forget my Story, which indeed is hardly worth mentioning, and I mention it only to shew how *low* they will descend, who are determined to lessen a Character which

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they

they have not a Capacity to equal, nor Generosity enough to admire.

Mr. *Budgell*, all the World knows, has a strong Imagination and a bold Style, extremely well adapted to *sublime* Subjects, but some, for Want of Taste, and others out of abundant Envy and Malice, would attempt to *burlesque* his Manner. They say, it borders upon the *Marvellous*; and they give out that Mr. *Budgell* has a Design to write the Life and Actions, and draw the Character, of JACK the GIANT KILLER, with some other *renowned* Champions, to whom History has not as yet done Justice. But Mr. *Budgell*, as I am well informed, is employing his Pen upon a Subject more worthy of it, his *own Life*; in which there will be *locus ad agendum amplissimus*, a large Field for the Display of his Genius, and a great Variety of remarkable, diverting, and instructive Circumstances. It has not been so customary for great Men, to write their own Lives, but Mr. *Budgell* has two Reasons for it; one is, that there are several Parts of his Life which no Body is sufficiently acquainted with but *himself*; the other is, to prevent *Flattery*, which he has so great an Aversion to, that he will not suffer any Body to compliment his *Memory*, any more than he would endure any Thing of that Kind whilst *living*. For these Reasons he intends

intends to give the World a *bare Narrative* of Facts, without any Embellishments; conceal the Orator, that he may shew the faithful Historian, and the modest Man. To his History will be annext a *Confession of his Faith*, which will be very curious. I must own, for my self, I shall be very desirous of seeing it, and the more so, because he *differs*, it seems, in *some* Points from his great Master, Dr. *Tindal*.

THE Dr, in Respect to his Opinion of *Revelation*, was (as Mr. *Budgell* informs us) an *old Whig*, but I presume *Revelation* is not the Point wherein these two *great Men* differ'd. Mr. *Budgell* makes a difference between the Faith of an *old Whig* and a *modern Whig*; but whether the *old Creed* or the *new* one be the shortest, or in what Articles they differ, he has not told us, but I think in Justice to the *old Whigs*, he ought to have done it; because they have hitherto suffered under the Imputation of *believing Christianity*.

THAT what I have offer'd in behalf of Mr. *Budgell*, may have its full Weight, I have concealed my Name. Mr. *Budgell* being upon the Point of Advancement to great *Dignity* and *Power*, his Enemies might suggest that I wanted to do my self publick Honour, and re-

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commend my self to ~~his~~ your for some considerable Place; which would lessen my own Merit, and hinder the Effect of my Defence of him. Now, every Argument will meet with the Regard which is due to a *disinterested* Advocate; and as the Vindication of *injured Innocence* is my Motive, I desire no other Reward than the Consciousness of a good *Intention*.

F I N I S.

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♥ *Advertisement.*

W Hereas there was a *Counterfeit* Defence of Mr. *Budgell* published last *Saturday* in a weekly Paper called the *Bee*, with an Intent to expose the Gentleman, this is to assure the Publick, that the only *genuine* Defence that ever has been, or ever will be, printed, is published by Mr. *Cooper* in *Ivy-Lane*.

